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General Assembly

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Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities
New York, 16 January-3 February 2006

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities on its seventh session

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, the General Assembly decided to establish the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the work done in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development.

2. In its resolution 60/232 of 23 December 2004, the General Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should hold, within existing resources, prior to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, two sessions in 2006, one of 15 working days from 16 January to 3 February, in order to achieve a complete reading of the draft text of a convention prepared by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee and one of 10 working days from 7 to 18 August.

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the seventh session

3. The Ad Hoc Committee held its seventh session at United Nations Headquarters from 16 January to 3 February 2006. In the course of its session, the Ad Hoc Committee held 30 meetings.

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4. The Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs acted as the substantive secretariat, while the Disarmament and Decolonization Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as secretariat of the Ad Hoc Committee.

5. The seventh session of the Ad Hoc Committee was opened by the Chairman of the Committee, Don McKay, Ambassador of New Zealand.

B. Officers

6. The following officers continued to serve on the Bureau of the Committee:

Chairman:
Don McKay (New Zealand)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Jorge Ballestero (Costa Rica)
Petra Ali Doláková (Czech Republic)[1]
Mu'taz Hyassat (Jordan)
Laoura Lazouras (South Africa)

C. Agenda

7. At its 1st meeting, on 16 January 2006, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document A/AC.265/2006/L.1, as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Continuation of the review of the draft Convention, based on the draft text proposed by the Chair (A/AC.265/2006/1).
6. Conclusion of the Ad Hoc Committee at its seventh session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its seventh session.

D. Documentation

8. The Ad Hoc Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda (A/AC.265/2006/L.1);

(b) Proposed organization of work (A/AC.265/2006/L.2);

(c) Letter dated 7 October 2005 from the Chairman to all members of the Committee (A/AC.265/2006/1);

[1] Elected on 16 January 2006.

(d) List of participants (A/AC.265/2006/INF/1);

(e) Concept of reasonable accommodation in selected national disability legislation (background conference document prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs) (A/AC.265/2006/CRP.1);

(f) Draft final provisions for the disability convention (background conference document prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) (A/AC.265/2006/CRP.2);

(g) Accessibility to information and communications: perspectives of the visually impaired (background conference document prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs) (A/AC.265/2006/CRP.3);

(h) Expert paper on existing monitoring mechanisms, possible relevant improvements and possible innovations in monitoring mechanisms for a comprehensive and integral international convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities (background conference document prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) (A/AC.265/2006/CRP.4).

III. Organization of work

9. During its seventh session, the Ad Hoc Committee conducted informal discussions on articles 1 to 34, the preamble and the title of the draft convention in accordance with the programme of work adopted at its first meeting, on 16 January 2006. On 3 February, at its 30th meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee heard the report of the Chairman on the progress of informal discussions on articles 1 to 34, the preamble and the title of the draft convention (see annex II). The Committee decided to continue to review the draft convention at its next session.

IV. Recommendations

10. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that it continue its work at its eighth session, to be held from 14 to 25 August 2006.

11. The Ad Hoc Committee invites members of its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings regarding the preparation and organization of its eighth session, including the preparation of the provisional agenda, to be issued at least four weeks prior to the eighth session.

12. With regard to accessibility, and in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 58/246, 59/198 and 60/232 and decision 56/474, the Committee reiterated the need for additional efforts to ensure accessibility at the United Nations, with reasonable accommodation regarding facilities and documentation, for all persons with disabilities.

13. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 60/232 of 23 December 2005 and its decision 56/474 of 23 July 2002 on the need for additional efforts to ensure accessibility at the United Nations, with reasonable accommodation regarding facilities and documentation, for all persons with disabilities,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Secretary-General to explore and implement innovative measures for the provision of selected documents in Braille to the Ad Hoc Committee at is seventh session;

2. *Welcomes also* the donation to the United Nations of a Braille printer by Services for the Visually Impaired and Braille software by Duxbury System;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that selected pre-session documents as well as in-session documents be reproduced in Braille at all forthcoming sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee."

V. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee

14. At its 30th meeting, on 3 February 2006, the Committee adopted the draft report on its seventh session (A/AC.265/2006/L.3).

Annex I

Additional non-governmental organizations accredited to the Ad Hoc Committee

Arab Organization of Disabled People

Asia Pacific Disability Forum

Association of Disabled Women and Mothers of Disabled Children

Disabled People's Rehabilitation and Employment Union of Georgia

National Federation of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities of Honduras

Fédération togolaise des personnes handicapées

Global Deaf Connection

Impact Foundation Bangladesh

Junior Chamber International Nigeria

Life Vanguards

Light of the World

Mine Combat Organization

Harmony of the World

Little People of Kosova

Planwell Group Organization

Projet de Réadaptation à Base Communautaire des Aveugles et Autres Personnes Handicapées du Niger

Scope

Statute of Mine Combat Organization

The Cambodia Trust

Threshold Association

United States Burn Support Organization

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation

Annex II

[Report of the Chairman to the seventh session of the Ad Hoc Committee]